

I hope every Member of this House will commit themselves to getting back to the work we were sent here to do and delivering real results for our constituents.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, it is day 16, and I am cautiously optimistic that the shutdown ends today and that we begin to restore the full faith and credit of our Nation.

Let's get this done. First, let's open the government today. Second, let's pay our bills and make sure that the world knows America always pays its bills. Most importantly, now is the time for us to come together and put a real budget together, a budget that brings Democrats and Republicans together, the best ideas out of both parties, and really begins to deal with the debt. We need a budget that begins to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for today's seniors, but also the next generation of seniors, and a budget that begins to create jobs and restores the middle class in America.

Let's work together as Democrats and Republicans to put the American people first. We now have that opportunity.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the basic concept of fairness.

In July, the Obama administration announced that it would be providing Big Business a 1-year reprieve from having to comply with ObamaCare. The White House indicated that this decision was made to give employers time to adjust to what the Federal Government was about to impose on them: cover your employees with plans that have been blessed by Washington, or be fined.

It was a stunning move, a move some have said was an admission that either ObamaCare wasn't ready for prime time or that it was a political calculation that employers offloading their employees' health insurance would not be rewarded in the 2014 elections. The other possibility is that delaying the employer mandate was simply the fair thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President that if the delay is good enough for Big Business, wouldn't it also be fair to delay the individual mandate that every American must comply with, or be fined?

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue for us to put an end to this government shutdown and the tremendously harmful effects it has had on the people in our great Nation.

We need to get behind the Senate's reasonable, bipartisan plan that has been put together to open up our government, pay our bills, and put an end to this shutdown.

Failure, by the way, means that 5 million disabled veterans won't receive their benefits in November. Failure means that 10 million Americans won't receive their Social Security checks on October 23, and 26 million more people will not get their Social Security checks on November 1. Failure means \$36,000 in additional interest on an average home loan and an additional \$1,000 on an average student loan. Failure means hundreds of thousands of public employees won't get paid, with the businesses and the jobs and the people they serve being at enormous risk.

Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is that we need to end this government shutdown and stop the harm and damage it is causing.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it appears a negotiated proposal that is bipartisan will come to a vote before this House today to end the government shutdown and avert a debt default. The American people surely are looking for reassurance that their government will offer them the security and dependability that they expect.

Our citizens expect a Nation that is confident and certain, not unsteady and uncertain. With the expectation that this compromise from the Senate will now be brought before the House, the Dow today already is up 200 points. That is what America wants—a growing economy, job creation here at home, a government run efficiently as part of a larger whole in which we all have a stake. As our Nation grows itself out of the deepest recession in modern history, the least any Member can do is do no harm.

A working bipartisan majority here in this House holds the power to govern this Nation. All it needs is the will. Frankly, the world depends on the certainty of the U.S. dollar. Let's get back to regular order. America's challenge is to grow our economy and the jobs that go with it.

Mr. Speaker, let's vote to end the shutdown today, pay our bills, and get America back to work for the American people. It is overtime.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, while I hope today is the last day of the senseless government shutdown, I want to share a part of a letter from one of my constituents, Lindsay Smith, a medical student and 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force's Health Professions Scholarship Program.

She writes:

On October 15, I woke up anxious. I took a shower, ate breakfast, and right before I left for class, I held my breath and checked my bank account—no deposit.

I am not getting paid during this ridiculous government shutdown game of chicken. Today, I got to call my electric and cell phone providers to ask for an extension of my mid-month bills. Ensuring I eat has become the most pressing issue in my life.

I wish more than anything that I could share my story with those Members of Congress who are keeping this stupid shutdown charade going. The Affordable Care Act has passed all three levels of government. That's how democracy works.

Because our elected representatives couldn't think about the big picture and in light of the Republican Party agenda to block anything and everything coming out of the Oval Office, thousands of Federal employees and non-Active Duty military members are having to make the choice between eating and paying bills.

The pettiness is messing up people's lives, the people who support and defend you. You should be endlessly ashamed of yourselves.

Thank you, Lieutenant Smith, for letting us know and for reminding us of the impact of our actions on real lives.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, in New Hampshire and across our country, we continue to see how congressional dysfunction is damaging our economy.

The other day, I had a telephone town hall to talk with my constituents about how to end this gridlock. I spoke with Nelson in Columbia, New Hampshire, a veteran who fought for our freedom in World War II. All he asked is that Republicans and Democrats stop fighting with each other.

If we do not end this shutdown soon, on November 1, veterans like Nelson will not receive over \$6 billion in pension, education, and other benefits they have earned. If we do not act now, we will fail to pay our bills and will default on all of our obligations. This is obviously unacceptable to the American people and to our economy.

Every day this shutdown continues is a day that Congress does not focus on growing the economy, fostering job creation, and expanding opportunity for the middle class.

It is long past time for Republicans and Democrats to come together, and that is why I am proud to be a founding member of United Solutions, a group of new Members who is working together and will vote today to reopen our government, pay our bills, and move our country forward.